THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, February 20, 1804.

A MEDITATION *for* NEW-YEAR's DAY.

[From the German of the celebrated Sturm.]

I Conſider this firſt day of the year as if it were the firſt day of my life, and dare expect from the goodneſs of my God as many bleſſings for the year that commences this day, as I have obtained ſince my entrance into the world, and during the whole of my courſe. What favours have I not reaſon to expect from my heavenly Father, who, from the firſt moment of my exiſtence, yea, even before I had a being, was occupied concerning me with ſo much tenderneſs and goodneſs!

At the moment of my arrival in this world he cauſed me to find parents and friends, who aſſiſted me, who have nouriſhed me, and whoſe diſintereſted love provided for me in that ſtate of weakneſs and incapacity in which I was found. Without their ſuccour, without their generous attachment to my well-being, could I have preſerved health, and the many other bleſſings which I now poſſeſs? If at that time I had been able to reflect on my deſtiny, I ſhould, without doubt, have promiſed myſelf many agreeable hours in the courſe of my exiſtence upon earth. Now that I am capable of making theſe reflections, I wiſh to give myſelf up to the thought of my happineſs, and to thoſe ſweet hopes which it invites me to form for the future. I enter with the preſent year into a new path of life, not ſo wholly deprived of all things, nor ſo incapable of aſſiſting myſelf as I was when I firſt entered into the world, but with the ſame need of ſupernatural ſuccour that I then had.

I ſtill need the foſtering hand of my friends, their conſolatory aid when dejected by diſappointments, and their protection in thoſe dangers to which I may be expoſed. And will not my heavenly Father grant me a bleſſing ſo neceſſary? Yes, I am

certain he will; and whatſoever may happen to me in the courſe of this year, the Lord has without doubt already choſen a friend for me, who in dubious caſes ſhall be my counſellor, and in affliction my ſupport; who ſhall partake of the comforts of my proſperity, and be the ſtay of my mind in the time of adverſity.

From the firſt moments of my life, God has laid the foundation of my future deſtiny. It was not by accident I was born of ſuch parents, in ſuch a part of the world, and in ſuch a particular time, and not in another. The time, place, circumſtances, and conſequences of my birth, God has arranged in the wiſeſt order. He then regulated my lot, weighed the hardſhips which I was to endure, and provided the comforts and ſatisfactions which ſhould reſtore calmneſs and ſerenity to my mind. After his purpoſes, many unknown cauſes muſt contribute to my felicity, and every thing which flood in any relation to me muſt concur to accompliſh his beneficent deſigns. With this firſt day of the new year, I may conſider my lot as being regulated anew. The Lord who has given me a being, comprehends, with a foreſight which nothing can deceive, every week, day, and inſtant of this year. Though all that concerns me be hidden from my eyes, yet every thing is open to the eyes of the Lord, and all is regulated according to his purpoſes, which are ever fraught with wiſdom and goodneſs. If, during the courſe of this year, I ſhould meet with ſome misfortune which I cannot foreſee; if ſome unexpected happineſs ſhould fall to my ſhare; if I meet with ſome loſs which I have now no reaſon to expect, I ſhall conſider the whole as happening according to the wiſe direction of my God.

Impreſſed with this conviction, I enter on the journey which commences this day. Whatever may occur, I will confirm myſelf more and more in the perſuaſion that Jehovah ſhall be my God and my father in my old age, as well as he has been in my youth. If I find myſelf expoſed to want or diſtreſs, I will remember the days of my infancy, a ſtate ſtill more critical, in which the Lord had pity upon me. If I meet with unfaithfulneſs from any friend, this muſt not diſturb me; God can raiſe me up others from whoſe tenderneſs I may derive joy and comfort. Should my life be expoſed to perſecutions and diſtreſſes which I can neither foreſee nor prevent, this ſhall not terrify me; I will truſt in the Lord, who has protected my infancy when it was expoſed to a thouſand dangers.

What then ſhould hinder me from beginning this year with tranquillity? I deſire without anxiety to look forward, and abandon all my concerns to the direction of the Lord. I wiſh ſubmiſſively to follow the path which he ſhall point out, and to bleſs him at each ſtep, becauſe he leads me in a way ſo merciful and ſafe.

Hints

Hints reſpecting Women's and Children's Clothes catching Fire.

WHEN we reflect on the many dreadful misfortunes which have of late years happened, in conſequence of the clothes of women and children accidentally catching fire, it is a matter of ſome ſurpriſe, as well as great concern, to find ſo very little attention paid to the prevention of ſuch misfortunes in future.

The following hints are offered with a ſincere wiſh that they may meet with that ſerious conſideration which the ſubject requires, and be the means of engaging the attention of the public on this ſubject, and of adopting the following meaſures recommended, or ſome more effectual.

There are two principal objects which offer for our conſideration; the firſt is, to prevent the clothes from catching fire: and the other, to check the progreſs of the flames.

One of the moſt evident methods to prevent the clothes from catching fire, is to have wire-fenders placed before the fire-place, of a ſufficient height to hinder the coals from flying into the room; ſuch fenders are ſo placed in ſome parlours, but more it is believed for protecting the marble hearth and carpet, than for the ſafety of the females and children of the family. Wire ſcreens are ſometimes placed in rooms where birds are let looſe, parallel to the fire-place; ſuch as theſe, if more projecting ones ſhould be objected to, might be uſed in common ſitting-rooms. One or two ſtrong metal bars would be ſome protection, if cloſe wire-work ſhould not be liked; theſe, of courſe, ſhould come ſome way forward, otherwiſe they would not be of much uſe. Certainly the ſafeſt are fenders of cloſe wire-work, projecting into the room, ſufficiently open to let the heat through, but not any coals which might fly from the fire. Nurſeries in particular ſhould have this ſort.

The ſecond object which offers for conſideration is to check the progreſs of the flames; one of the moſt evident means of accompliſhing this end, is to wear dreſſes of materials which will not readily burn; but, as it is not probable that muſlins and linens will be laid aſide on account of the danger they expoſe the perſons wearing them to, perhaps ſome method may be adopted which may check the progreſs of the fire in thoſe ſubſtances. Experiments for this purpoſe have been made (on a ſmall ſcale) which very well anſwered the end, but on account of the preparations uſed, (which were pot-aſh and other alkaline ſubſtances), having the property of imbibing moiſture in a great degree, it renders this exact method, it is feared, impracticable. Would it not be of uſe, if the ſociety of arts, manufactures, and commerce were to offer a premium for the beſt method of rendering linen and muſlin dreſſes, in a conſiderable degree, uninflammable,

flammable, and not diſcolour, or injure in other reſpects, the ſubſtances, rendering them unfit for uſe?

It has been recommended, that perſons whoſe clothes have caught fire, ſhould immediately roll themſelves up in the carpet, but this excellent method of extinguiſhing the flames is frequently quite impracticable, as it is cuſtomary to nail carpets down to the floor, a practice which ſhould never be ſuffered in rooms where there is any danger of accidents of this kind happening; nor ſhould heavy tables, or other furniture, be ſo placed on the carpet as to hinder it from being eaſily rolled up.

If a woollen cloth were conſtantly kept in nurſeries and ſitting-rooms, eſpecially when there are fires laid looſe upon the table, or other piece of furniture, this being always at hand, might be eaſily reſorted to in caſe of accident, and being wrapped tight round the flames, or ſtrongly preſſed againſt them, would, by excluding the air, no doubt, in many inſtances, ſoon extinguiſh the fire. A green baize cloth, which being very pliable, and likewiſe a neat cover to furniture, is recommended for this purpoſe; and if ſuch were known in the family by the name of the ſtifling cloth, it probably would as readily be uſed when there was occaſion for it, as fire-engines and buckets now are. Care muſt be taken to procure baize of a cloſe texture. Where the convenience of a baize cloth cannot be eaſily procured, as in cottages, &c. a cloth cloak, or a blanket, will anſwer much the ſame purpoſe.

May we not attribute many of the melancholy events which have happened of late, to the modern practice of fixing fire-grates more forward than formerly, and to the prevailing cuſtom of wearing muſlin dreſſes?

THE FAITHFUL SPANIEL: An Anecdote.

A Merchant of Corinth was charged, by the magiſtrates of that city, with a commiſſion to an iſland ſituated near Athens. This merchant had a large water ſpaniel, which uſually accompanied him in his travels, but was prevented from following him, in the preſent inſtance, by being accidentally ſhut up in a room.

The merchant had not been long embarked, before his faithful companion found the ſecret of eſcaping through the window; and he immediately ran to the door, to ſee if his maſter was there; but, alas! he was not to be found. By this time, the veſſel, driven by a fair wind, was ſcarcely perceptible from the ſhore. What an embarraſſment was this for the poor dog? What could he do? What would become of him? After a moment's heſitation, however, he plunged into the ſea, and ſwam towards the ſhip with all his might. He had not got far before

fore a terrible ſtorm aroſe: the lightning flaſhed, the wind blew, the thunder rolled, torrents of rain fell from the heavens, and the waves ran mountains high. All this did not prevent the affectionate creature from continuing his efforts, though he had not gained in the leaſt upon the ſhip, which had been driven with great rapidity, from the violence of the tempeſt.

However, the weather ſoon became as ſerene as it had been before tempeſtuous: the ſun ſhone with all its ſplendour, and the mildneſs of the air invited the Corinthian to come upon deck. While he was contemplating the magnificent ſpectacle of the glaſſy ocean, and the contraſt of a calm ſucceeding a ſtorm, he was ſurpriſed by the barking of a dog, which he ſoon diſcovered to be his own favourite ſpaniel: he immediately ran to the pilot, and begged him to ſlacken the courſe of the veſſel; ſo that, by the help of a rope, they might be able to ſave the poor animal, which was ſo ſpent that it could ſcarcely keep itſelf above water. His intreaties were in vain. He promiſed a great recompence if his requeſt could be complied with, but even that was rejected. The ſurly mariner anſwered, that he ſhould not ſtop the courſe of his veſſel, for the ſake of a dog. Being anxious to arrive at their intended port, the paſſengers were nearly all of the ſame mind; ſo that the poor animal was ſtill obliged to follow the veſſel as well as he was able; but the wind blowing freſh, by the time they arrived at their deſtination he was entirely out of ſight. The Greek looked for him in vain for ſome time, but he at laſt eſpied him, toſſing up and down at the mercy of the waves; for he was ſo exhauſted that he had no longer power to direct his courſe. He had juſt ſtrength to reach the ſhore, which he had no ſooner accompliſhed than he fell down on the ſand, and breathed his laſt, with his head upon his maſter's feet.

"Unfeeling wretch!" exclaimed the indignant Corinthian, "what would it have coſt thee to have been a little obliging? By ſaving the life of this animal, more ſenſible than thyſelf, thou wouldſt have ſaved me the moſt poignant regret; and, for a little trouble, thou wouldſt have gained this purſe of gold, which would have enriched thee and thy family for the remainder of your lives."

ELIZA LASCELLS: A TALE.

(Continued from Page 124.)

THE frequent abſence of her huſband had given her the greateſt inquietude, and ſhe had long feared that ſome more fortunate female had ſupplanted her in his heart; the converſation of Sir George had realized theſe ſuſpicions, and ſhe retired

to

to her own chamber overwhelmed with grief. From her mother ſhe was determined to conceal the intelligence ſhe had received from Sir George Freelove, knowing that ſhe already participated too ſincerely in the ſorrows of her heart; and ſcarcely had ſhe been half an hour in her apartment when the being who had occaſioned her ſo much miſery returned.

The traces of diſtreſs were ſtill viſible in her countenance, and with an unuſual degree of tenderneſs he enquired into the cauſe; lamented the circumſtance which had occaſioned his abſence, and invited her to accompany him into the nurſery to ſee his little boy. Theſe pretended proofs of affection were daggers to the boſom of Eliza, who found it impoſſible to reſtrain her tears; and the conſcious Edward immediately felt a conviction that his treachery and deception had been found out. For the purpoſe of diſſipating what he flattered himſelf might only be conjecture, he for ſome time paid Eliza thoſe attentions ſhe had long been unaccuſtomed to receive, but inſtead of being gratified by them, they gave an additional pang to her feelings, as ſhe was convinced they originated merely in his deſire to deceive.

Still Eliza could not help indulging an anxious curioſity to know the name of the female who had ſupplanted her in her huſband's regard, yet ſhe ſaw not the leaſt probability of having it gratified, without applying to the perſon from whom the information had been received. This method ſhe was determined never to practiſe, and ſhe carefully avoided ever being alone with him again; for though he had only requeſted her to conſider him in the light of a brother, he had declared that he was no longer her huſband's friend. Accident, however, at length became favourable to her wiſhes, for the child being indiſpoſed, ſhe went into Edward's room for the purpoſe of requeſting him to call at the phyſician's, as ſhe knew he was going out. Sir Charles, a few minutes before, had ſent a meſſenger to him deſiring him to call inſtantly at his houſe, and in his hurry he forgot to cloſe his writing-deſk, on which laid a letter addreſſed to Mrs. Smith. To the name of Smith, Eliza was an entire ſtranger, and ſhe knew that none of Edward's family lived in Sloane-ſtreet; the wafer was ſtill wet, and an unconquerable curioſity impelled her to open the letter and peruſe its contents. Severely did ſhe pay for the indulgence of her curioſity, for it convinced her that the being, on whom ſhe had beſtowed her affection, was the moſt depraved of mankind; the unfortunate Emma became an object of commiſeration; and in the letter was incloſed the following lines:

To

To Mrs. SMITH.

" My beloved Emma,

" The buſineſs which compelled me to tear myſelf from you, has detained me beyond the time I had reaſon to expect; but I anticipate the hope of embracing you, in the courſe of a few days. Language can never deſcribe what I have ſuffered from this ſeparation! Oh, my beloved Emma, do you participate in my diſtreſs? Do you feel that every moment which ſeparates you from your Edward, is an abſolute extinction of the very purpoſes of life? ' What is life without paſſion? ſweet paſſion of love?' Truly do I participate in the ideas of this author; life without my Emma is inſipidity and diſguſt. But I look forward to the time when I may proudly acknowledge you as the deareſt bleſſing I poſſeſs on earth! The period will arrive when parental authority muſt terminate; then ſhall I publicly convince you that love is a deſpiſer of wealth; and that attractions like your's might juſtly entitle you to the moſt elevated ſituations of fortune and rank. Every moment I am ſeparated from you appears an age in my imagination; I am continually blaming the tardy movement of time. How do you ſpend your time during my abſence? Have you made yourſelf miſtreſs of that beautiful Italian air? It is peculiarly calculated to the ſweetneſs of your accents, and when I ſee you again I hope you will raviſh my ears. With what delight, my beloved girl, do I liſten to the harmony produced from the fineſt throat that ever was beheld! Never did nature produce ſuch a maſterpiece of perfection as the being I have the happineſs to addreſs. I long to careſs the dear pledge of our affection. When gazing upon it I behold the dear image of yourſelf; that reſemblance would be ſufficient to endear it to me, even if it was the child of a perſon whom I had never ſeen.

" Adieu, my Emma! Think of me with tenderneſs, and believe that you, alone, poſſeſs the heart of

" EDWARD SMITH."

Imperfect would be the power of language to expreſs the feelings of Eliza, while ſhe peruſed the letter; yet, amid the anguiſh of her ſenſations, ſhe felt that ſhe had been guilty of a piece of curioſity ſhe could not pardon in herſelf. " Would the amiable Emma," ſaid ſhe, " have acted in this manner, had ſhe been in my ſituation? Ah, no! ſhe would have been ſuperior to ſuch littleneſs of mind! Edward has ſeen faults in me, which the fondneſs of my mother could not diſcover; and I may attribute the alienation of his affections to the interiority of my worth."

This was the ſoliloquy which the amiable Eliza uttered, upon diſcovering the treachery of the man who had vowed fidelity to her alone; and, inſtead of feeling indignant at the baſeneſs

of his conduct, she condemned herself for indulging a curiosity which few of her sex could have withstood. In making use of the term *sex*, it is not to be imagined that any peculiar degree of censure is to be attached to the curiosity of *one*; for if the husband of Eliza had heard the same censures passed upon her conduct, which Sir George Freelove hesitated not to use, I am inclined to believe that he would not have conducted himself with that honour, which must have exalted the character of Eliza still higher than it was before. But to return to this amiable young woman: after having perused the letter, she again closed the seal, and retired to her own apartment, in a state of mind difficult to describe. The indisposition of her little boy was a sufficient excuse for her agitation. Edward had not the slightest suspicion of her having been in his room, but at the time specified in his letter made a pretence for leaving home.

The distress of Eliza's mind produced a visible effect upon her constitution. Her mother's fears and apprehensions were most anxiously alarmed, and even the dissipated Sir George Freelove determined for a time to relinquish the favourite object of his heart. Physicians were called in, but none of them could discover her disorder, though it was evident to the most *skilful* that it had originated in her mind; a voyage to Lisbon was proposed, and Sir Charles insisted upon her making trial of it, as he really loved her with as much affection as if she had been his child. Eliza, convinced that it would be an expence without efficacy, and knowing that from the extravagance of her husband, his affairs were involved, for a length of time positively refused to quit England, but, in compliance with the wishes of Sir Charles and her mother, at length reluctantly complied. Convinced in her own mind that she should never more return to her native country, and wishing only for existence for the sake of her child, she formed the resolution of visiting the unfortunate Emma, though she was aware that the interview would agonize her mind.

As Mrs. Lascells always accompanied her when she went an airing, she knew it would be necessary to pay her visit at an early hour; she therefore informed her woman she was going to call upon a lady in the neighbourhood, and walking to the first stand, got into a hackney coach.

Edward at that time was gone down into the country with his father, therefore she had no fears of encountering him in the interview; yet she knew not what excuse to make for introducing herself to a stranger; neither was she acquainted with the number of the house. Ordering the coachman to stop at a chandler's shop, the corner of Sloane-street, she alighted under pretence of buying some tea, and enquired of a woman, whether there was not a lady of the name of Smith, who lived in the same street. "Yes, ma'am," replied a creditable looking

young woman, " I have lived with her for the laſt ſix months, but I am going to leave her to-morrow. Shall I have the pleaſure of ſhowing you the houſe?"

" I will ſpeak a word with you firſt," replied Eliza, " if you will ſtep with me in the coach." The young woman followed, and her companion then aſked her whether ſhe was in want of a place. " I hope you will not be offended, Madam," ſaid ſhe, " but I am going to leave the lady I at preſent live with, becauſe I have heard ſhe is not married to the gentleman with whom ſhe lives: though I never ſaw any thing to make me believe to the contrary, and a ſweeter behaved lady I am ſure does not live; but my maſter's own ſervant told me that they were not married, and that his name is not Smith; and as a ſervant has nothing but her character to depend upon, I determined to leave the houſe; and if you, Madam, ſhould be a lady who live in ſuch ſort of a manner, I beg your pardon for ſaying it, but I ſhould not chooſe to take your place."

" I am ſo far from being offended," ſaid Eliza, " that I admire your principles; and, to place confidence in you, muſt tell you I am the friend of your maſter's wife; I have a ſtrong curioſity to ſee your unfortunate miſtreſs, who, from what little I know of her hiſtory, has been cruelly ſeduced." " Cruelly, indeed, ma'am," replied the young woman, " for her own maid ſwears ſhe is married; but what does that ſignify if he has got another wife. I am ſure my heart bleeds for the poor dear young creature, for ſhe is not ſeventeen, although ſhe has got a child."

(To be continued)

SKETCH *of the* NEAPOLITAN ARMY.

[Tranſlated from the French of an ingenious Foreigner.]

WE ſhould have ſome difficulty in diſcovering the deſcendants of the Marſi and the Daunians, ſo renowned in the Roman armies, in the Neapolitan ſoldiers of the preſent day. Their good mien, and apparent diſcipline, and fine out-ſide, conceal the abſence of all military qualities. The Neapolitans appeared at Toulon, like ſoldiers on a theatre, in groupes and ballets, to fill up and ornament the ſcene. If pomp and parade had been all that was neceſſary, they would have borne away the palm. The Neapolitan court took great pains with the troops, but their care went no farther than dreſs and appearance; the army was a fine one, but that was all, for the different regiments ſwarmed with cowardly, treacherous, effeminate, and ignorant officers. The Neapolitan infantry ſtood a few diſcharges of cannon and muſquetry at Toulon; and a few ſqua-

drons of cavalry were cut in pieces in Lombardy; the court looked upon the attacks, which the troops could not do leſs than receive, as ſo many proofs of valour, and trophies of honour, inſtead of aſcertaining whether they had made any attacks on their part.

It is foreign to our ſubject to ſeek into the origin of their rupture with France, before war was declared with the emperor; but we cannot help expreſſing our aſtoniſhment at the conduct of General Mack. We are yet to learn, at leaſt ſatisfactorily, why he ſhould have undertaken, with a Neapolitan army (completely new and inexperienced in war), a plan, which might have been excellent, if executed by Auſtrian troops, but which could by no means be ſuited to Neapolitans. It is no excuſe to ſay that he was forced to it. The court of Naples had not certainly preſcribed the plan, and the execution of it too. If he was unſucceſsful from the cowardice of the troops, and the incapacity of their leaders, it is what he ought to have expected and foreſeen. If the court was abſolutely determined to begin the war, it might readily do it: it is an eaſy matter to defend the frontiers of one's own country, when the enemy is at two hundred leagues diſtance.

The Neapolitans ran away, and did not execute General Mack's plans; he had no right to be aſtoniſhed at this; it was what he expected, and he ought not to have expoſed himſelf to the riſk: he ſhould have acted like Fabius, inſtead of following the example of Varro. It is one of the neceſſary qualifications of a general to know the capacity and compaſs of his troops; he is unpardonable, if he permits himſelf to be deceived, or impoſed upon, on this head; it is this that diſtinguiſhes a general from a mere maſter of tactics, and true military genius, from the trammelled ſyſtem of an adjutant; we are accuſtomed to make an eſſay of our arms, before we confide our honour and life to them; the arms of a general are his army; and the army of General Mack was the ſafe-guard of the kingdom of Naples.

The example of the Neapolitan troops is a ſtriking proof of the effect, which bad officers produce on their ſoldiers. The inhabitants of Naples, and the country places, without any officers, than what they gave themſelves, withſtood the French in ſuch a manner, as to ſave the national honour of the Neapolitans, though it loudly condemns that of their officers. The Lazzaroni, who are conſidered as the vileſt race of beings, diſplayed a degree of courage and reſiſtance, which would have prevented the French from poſſeſſing themſelves of Naples, had it not been for the infamous treachery of Prince Moliterno, who delivered to the French the caſtles, which he had ſworn to defend, and the city, which they protected.

What

What could not be effected by General Mack, and by troops, that fancied themſelves ſoldiers, was eventually performed by a prieſt, Cardinal Ruffo, without either troops or money, by the help of a number of peaſants, who had aſſembled together from their hatred to the French, and were animated by their leader. Cardinal Ruffo poſſeſſed no military knowledge, but he poſſeſſed that of the human heart: he availed himſelf of this knowledge with addreſs and courage. Circumſtances were favourable to him, and he reſtored the kingdom of Naples to his ſovereign, and national honour to the people. He ſhewed that, if his army was bad, the people were not deficient in courage; and that if the court had known how to ſeek and chuſe proper ſubjects, the army might have been faithful and even ſerviceable. The Neapolitans, when they had got rid of their cowardly, treacherous, or weak officers, delivered their country. They would have defended it, if their means had been more regular and entire. This example furniſhes an uſeful leſſon, in teaching us not to truſt to appearances, or to ſuppoſe that we poſſeſs ſoldiers, when we have only military pretenders. Courage is in the heart of all people; there are certain circumſtances that ſmother it for a time, while others ſerve to call it forth; but it is never to be extinguiſhed. The vivacity and intelligence of the Italians render them highly ſuſceptible of being rouſed and led on by moral cauſes: they are poſſeſſed of courage; and all that is neceſſary, is to awaken and nouriſh it.

FASHIONS *for* FEBRUARY.

Full Dresses.

A Turkiſh robe of fine, plain, or worked muſlin. Turban ſleeve. A Mameluke turban ornamented with beads, and a white oſtrich feather. White ſhoes. A tunique of white crape laced down the front, and trimmed all round with ſilver, the bottom of the petticoat trimmed with ſilver. Head dreſs of pink ſatin velvet trimmed with ſilver. A ſilver ornament in front.

Promenade Dresses.

A round dreſs of white muſlin, made quite plain over the boſom, and tied cloſe round the neck with a double frill of lace or muſlin; long ſleeves of thin worked muſlin; cloſe bonnet of plain ſilk, or velvet. A ſhort round dreſs of white muſlin, with a pelice of fawn colour Georgian ſatin cloth, Vandyked all round with black velvet. A ſtraw hat, ornamented with a feather to match the pelice.

Head Dresses.

A white lace veil placed to fall over the left ſhoulder, and ornamented with a wreath of minionet. Mameluke turban of white ſatin; white oſtrich feathers in front. Cap of muſlin and lace, ornamented with a wreath of roſes. Lace veil with a flower in front. Cap of ſatin and crape ornamented with bead; oſtrich feathers in front. Small ſtraw hat turned up in front, ornamented with a wreath of roſes; pink oſtrich feathers in front. Cap of lace and muſlin. Hat of white ſatin, turned up all round with a ſcarlet ornament in front. A cap of French velvet and lace; bunch of roſes in front.

General Observations.

The prevailing colours are ſcarlet, blue, and yellow. Ornaments of all deſcriptions are much worn in the hair. The dreſſes are made very low round the boſom, and the ſleeves very ſhort. Diamond, or pearl necklaces, and bracelets. Lace ſtill ornaments every part of the dreſs. Velvet or cloth pelices, with velvet or ſtraw bonnets, conſtitute the walking dreſs.

An Account of an Eſtabliſhment at Chaillot, in France, for the Reception of aged Perſons of both Sexes.

[From Letters from France, written in 1802, by Henry Redhead Yorke, Eſq.]

THE French revolution having occaſioned the overthrow or ſuppreſſion of the principal humane eſtabliſhments which had ſubſiſted in this country for a long ſucceſſion of ages, private individuals have generouſly volunteered their ſervices in behalf of the unfortunate, and have endeavoured to repair thoſe breaches which crimes had effected in the order of ſociety. Notwithſtanding the verſatile and ingenious diſpoſition of the French people, they always look forward to ſome moments of repoſe, as they deſcend into the vale of life; and as they do not cheriſh thoſe ſtrong ſocial affections which are ſo forcibly felt in ſome other countries, they are more at liberty to enjoy the advantages that are held out excluſively to any individual. Nothing tends more to the happineſs of ſociety, than the diſcovery of practical methods of increaſing the comforts of thoſe who are no longer in a condition to ſupport themſelves. Nations may increaſe their territory, and augment their population; but unleſs they convert theſe advantages (for ſuch they really are) into the means of improving the ſituation of every claſs of men, they become objects of imperial oſtentation, not of popular benefit. When a nation has increaſed its numbers and power, it is bound to provide for its people additional means of ſubſiſtence; and unleſs

unleſs wiſe regulations are purſued in the attainment of this object, one portion of ſociety may enjoy all the benefits which flow from political union, while the reſt may ſink into diſtreſs, calamity, and decrepitude. There is, indeed, no moral or political neceſſity that beneficence ſhould be ſtationary, when nations are progreſſive. "Of what advantage," ſays a moſt uſeful and excellent writer, "is the progreſs of civilization, the increaſe of knowledge, the accumulated wiſdom and experience of ages, unleſs it furniſhes the means of increaſing the general happineſs of mankind, and enables a greater number of individuals to enjoy the advantages of political ſociety, or what may be emphatically called the bleſſings of human life!"*

I am ſenſible that in our great and flouriſhing empire theſe remarks are hardly neceſſary; but when you have become acquainted with the nature and object of the inſtitution which I have ſeen, and am about to deſcribe, I am perſuaded you will not be a little ſurpriſed, that a ſimilar idea has never entered the minds of any of thoſe charitable individuals, who, ſo much to their honour, devote their time, labour, and fortunes, towards bettering the condition of their fellow-creatures. Francois de Neufchateau, when miniſter of the interior, cauſed a very uſeful work to be digeſted, upon the different charitable eſtabliſhments in England and Germany, in order to point out to the government and people of France, how much remains to be done in the buſineſs of political economy. This work extends to ſix octavo volumes, but it does not include the later inſtitutions, which the neceſſity of their circumſtances have induced the French to adopt. I ſhall, therefore, enter into a detail of the eſtabliſhment of Chaillot, which is equally praiſeworthy for its benevolent views and its ingenuity.

I happened, lately, to fall into company with a *ci-devant* nobleman of the name of Duchailla; who, during the times of terror, loſt all his fortune, and was compelled to ſhelter himſelf at Berlin. I ſoon found that he poſſeſſed a found and inquiſitive mind, and was thoroughly converſant in every branch of domeſtic economy. In the courſe of our converſation, he inquired whether we had in Great Britain or Ireland any inſtitutions which offered a retreat for old age. I anſwered immediately, that they were numberleſs; and proceeded to enumerate many of our eſtabliſhments (of which, perhaps, there are more in Britain than in all Europe collectively) for the ſupport of the aged poor. This anſwer evidently did not ſatisfy him, and, therefore, he placed his queſtion on a different footing. "Have you," ſaid he, "any inſtitution, wholly independent of charitable purpoſes, in which male and female perſons, after they have reached ſeventy years of age, or ſooner if infirm, can, *by right*, and without aſking the favour of any individual, place themſelves,

* Sir John Sinclair.

themſelves, in order to paſs the remainder of their days in comfort and repoſe?" As I could not recollect any eſtabliſhment of the kind in England, he immediately ſaid, "Come and dine at my houſe to-morrow, and I will ſhow you one." On the next day, I waited upon him, and I ſhall now relate what I ſaw.

The houſe of M. Duchailla is moſt beautifully ſituated at Chaillot, in the Champs Elyſées, about two miles from Paris, commanding a moſt extenſive view of the city, the Seine, and the Champ de Mars. In front, there is a very large and elegant parterre, terminating in an extenſive kitchen garden; behind, there is another large houſe, formerly the monaſtery of St. Perine, which alſo belongs to this eſtabliſhment; and a field, of about four acres, bordered by a well-cultivated garden.

In this eſtabliſhment I found nearly one hundred aged perſons, male and female, whoſe manners and appearance evidently beſpoke that they had figured in the genteeler walks of life, and whoſe countenances indicated the moſt perfect happineſs and contentment. "This," ſaid he, "is the retreat I have eſtabliſhed for old age."

You muſt now follow me, ſtep by ſtep, with M. Duchailla, into the diſtribution of all the apartments, and the general arrangement of his domeſtic economy.

The chambers occupied by the female part of the ſociety compoſe the right wing of the houſe. Each female has a bed-chamber to herſelf excluſively; and there is one ſitting room or parlour appropriated to two females. Their clothing, if required, is found them.

The left wing of the houſe is occupied by the males, who are diſtributed in the ſame manner as the females, each perſon having a bed-room to himſelf, and a common parlour being allotted to two perſons, in which they receive the viſits of their relatives and friends, without the inconvenience of being obtruded upon by ſtrangers. A huſband and wife have a room alſo to themſelves.

Their diet correſponds in every reſpect with the neatneſs and ſimplicity of their apartments. At one o'clock, a plentiful dinner is ſerved up in the hall for the whole ſociety, and at ſeven they again aſſemble to ſupper. Beſides a ſufficient quantity of meat and vegetables, each perſon is allowed a pound and an half of bread; the men a bottle of wine, and the women half a bottle daily.

In caſe of ſickneſs, they are removed to a particular part of the houſe, which is uſed as an infirmary, where they are provided with every medical aſſiſtance, and experience every poſſible attention; and in caſe of their deceaſe, they are decently interred in the neighbouring church, at the expence of the ſociety; or elſewhere, at the expence of their friends.

Their time is entirely at their own diſpoſal. They may even employ themſelves in any lucrative occupation, provided it does not interfere with the quiet and general rules of the houſe. I obſerved that ſeveral females were very profitably engaged in needle-work for their friends and families. What little pecuniary emoluments they may acquire by their induſtry, ſupply them with pocket-money. The men uſually paſs their time in reading, walking in the neighbouring fields, or, occaſionally, working in the garden. In general, I obſerved, they are leſs active and induſtrious than the women, but much more devout. There is among them an old abbe, whoſe whole time is ſpent in reading his miſſal and other religious books; and his library was compoſed of about two hundred volumes, conſiſting wholly of the lives of ſaints. Another, about ſeventy-four years of age, preſented a ſtriking contraſt with the former. He had ſeen much of the world, his manners were prepoſſeſſing, and his converſation proved him to be a man who had lived not ſo much for himſelf as for others. He was pious without auſterity, cheerful without diſſipation, and polite without frivolity. It appeared he had ſeen better days, and been one of thoſe ſufferers whom the revolution had plundered and proſcribed, on account of his attachment to religion. He never ſpoke, however, with the leaſt aſperity of what had happened: he only ſhrugged his ſhoulders, and gave a ſmile of contempt at the miſerable efforts of his countrymen to eſtabliſh liberty and equality. He was well read in French literature, and was fond of aſtronomy; but his whole library conſiſted only of a Bible, and a Spaniſh edition of Don Quixote, an author to whom he ſeemed extremely partial.

Before we ſat down to dinner, one of the old gentlemen entered, and with great vivacity acquainted M. Duchailla he was going to the play! This ſurpriſed me. But, on enquiry, I found he had been an amateur of muſic; and that at ſeventy-two years of age his taſte for it was ſo predominant, that nothing could keep him from going to the opera buffa, to ſee the ſecond repreſentation of the beautiful piece of the Zingari in Fiera, by Paeſiello.

(To be continued.)

CURIOUS SPECIMEN *of* ORTHOGRAPHY.

LOST Beatwen Breag Corghſtown and Tenena Cros A ſak with the Propretoy of Two Bed Coardes and A Boſem of Bef Ho Will Bring Nows of the ſame ſhall Reſeve the ſhall Reſeve the Reward of Two Povends of Beaf and Ten Shilengs Rewarges.

POPULATION

POPULATION

OF THE

COUNTY *of* DORSET.

From the Lists lately returned by Order of Government.

Chief Places.	*Houses.*	*Males.*	*Females*	*Total Persons.*
Abbotsbury	173	351	437	788
Beaminster	337	1039	1101	2140
Blandford	408	1028	1298	2326
Bridport	288	1360	1757	3117
Beer Regis	201	451	485	936
Bradford Abbas	103	211	269	480
Broadwinsor	187	498	596	1094
Buckland Newton	133	315	337	652
Corfe Castle	152	356	385	741
Cranborne	337	640	762	1402
Cerne Abbas	165	409	438	847
Chardstock	203	543	552	1095
Dorchester	353	1078	1324	2402
Gillingham	360	875	998	1873
Hook	187	498	596	1094
Lyme Regis	276	618	833	1451
Melbury Osmond	66	147	188	335
Marnhull	167	510	565	1075
Melcombe Regis }	471	962	1388	2350
Weymouth }	243	498	769	1267
Netherbury	264	693	812	1505
Portland Isle	327	764	885	1619
Poole	1059	2091	2670	4761
Sturminster Newton	314	619	787	1406
Sydling	109	233	226	459
Sherborne	589	1381	1778	3159
Shaftsbury	515	863	1296	2159
Swanage	301	633	719	1382
Stalbridge	251	551	694	1245
Wimborne	673	1392	1647	3039
Wareham	381	777	850	1627
Yetminster	76	233	246	479
Remaining Parishes	12593	31050	33964	65014
Total Population exclusive of Army and Navy }	22262	53667	61652	115319

Baptisms & Burials in Dorsetshire.

Years.	*Baptisms.*	*Burials.*
1700	2216	1912
1710	1926	1805
1720	2236	1928
1730	2226	2499
1740	2262	2112
1750	2396	1878
1760	2454	1861
1770	2607	2090
1780	2927	2431
1781	2826	2312
1782	2666	2142
1783	2752	2312
1784	2671	2150
1785	2893	2274
1786	2738	1958
1787	2825	2096
1788	2777	1900
1789	2856	2142
1790	2927	1870
1791	2972	1985
1792	2873	1816
1793	2929	2005
1794	2725	1836
1795	2844	2525
1796	2748	1767
1797	2881	1874
1798	2842	1832
1799	2865	1959
1800	2712	1922

Collected from the Registers of 252 Parish Churches and Chapels in Dorset.

SINGULAR

SINGULAR CHARACTER.

MARLOW SIDNEY, Eſq. who died lately at Cowper, in the 99th year of his age, was a remarkably eccentric character. For many years he was exceſſively tortured with the gravel, and latterly paſſed a number of ſtones, on an average from ſix to ten in the courſe of a day, ſeveral larger than a pea, and what is ſurpriſing, he felt not the leaſt pain. His antipathy againſt medical gentlemen was ſo great, that even in his laſt illneſs he would not ſuffer any to attend him.

He was very partial to the dreſs and company of the fair ſex, but never had the pleaſure of tying the hymeneal knot. When ſeventy years of age, his thirſt for innocent and childiſh amuſements was ſuch, that he actually went to the dancing-ſchool, where he regularly attended, and appeared highly gratified with his youthful aſſociates. About two years ago, a ſiſter, who reſides in London, was at the trouble of paying him a viſit, and during her ſhort ſtay he generouſly indeed allowed her milk and lodging, but for bread, and other neceſſaries, ſhe was obliged to provide.

When he had any money to ſend to his banker in Newcaſtle, three of his moſt truſty ſervants were well mounted and armed with piſtols, his principal man rode in the middle with the caſh, and the other two at proper diſtances from him, in the van and rear; in this defenſive manner they marched along, the better to reſiſt any attack that might be attempted by daring highwaymen.

REFLECTIONS.

GOOD ſenſe is a feeble light, which illumines a confined horizon, and is ſufficient to conduct him ſafely whoſe views do not extend beyond it.

There are happy days, but not many happy lives.

A woman, among ſavages, is a beaſt of burthen; in the eaſt, a piece of furniture; and in Europe, a ſpoiled child.

He is moſt happy, as well as moſt reſpectable, who beſt diſcharges the duties of his ſtation.

A QUESTION, *by Ruſticus.*

A Farmer in my neighbourhood has a triangular meadow whoſe three ſides meaſure 6, 4, and 3 chains reſpectively. Now as he intends ſelling a quarter of an acre of this ground, he wiſhes to know how far he muſt meaſure on the perpendicular from the baſe, to cut off that quantity, and the diſtance from each ſide of the triangle?

Anſwer, by R. Bartlett, of Lopen, near South Petherton, to G. Coulman's Charade, inſerted January 2.

MAIDSTONE is the town you mean,
As in your charade may be ſeen.

☞ We have received the like anſwer from R. Holwell, J. Squance, and William Strong, of Exeter; J. Whittle, of Upway; J. Roulell, of Lopen; A. Kyne, jun. of Dartmouth; W. Bickham, jun. and W. Mann, of Aſhburton; and T. Coumbe, of St. German's.

Anſwer, by J. Chubb, of Everſhot, to W. Mann's Charade, inſerted January 2.

WHEN Flora clothes the mountains high,
Likewiſe the plains and dells,
The induſtrious bee you may deſcry,
Loading the BEE-HIVES cells.

☞ We have received the like anſwer from R. Bartlett, and J. Roufell, of Lopen; R. Horſey, of Wellington; J. Channon, of Ottery; R. Holwell, P. Gove, and J. Squance, of Exeter; J. Whittle, of Upway; A. Kyne, jun. of Dartmouth; R. Bellows, of Winborn; G. Holland, of Stoke Abbot; G. Coulman, of Broadhempſton; E. R. Bickham, of Newton Buſhel; Walter Bickham, jun. of Aſhburton; T. Coumbe, of St. German's; G. Hann, jun. of Stoke Abbott; and Recluſe, of Awliſcombe.

A CHARADE, *by W. G.*

WHEN winds ariſe, and madd'ning tempeſts roar,
And Neptune reigns triumphant o'er the main,
'Tis then the mariner, with all his might,
Unwearied tries my welcome firſt to gain.

Then at an inn, perhaps, my next you'll ſee,
A due attendant at the ſumptuous board;
And he, without a doubt, expects a fee,
From either a rich knight or noble lord.

Now if theſe parts, ingenious youths, you join,
Without a doubt you'll find my occupation;
And may I ever, while in office, be
A ſubject true both to the king and nation.

An ENIGMA, *by R. Holwell, of Exeter.*

ONCE more, kind youths, for you to find my name,
I at your bar an humble ſuppliant am;
My harden'd head will firſt, and quickly ſhew,
From whence doth Boreas puff his cheeks and blow;
I uſeful am to thoſe upon the ſea,
To find their latitude they come to me;
Both north and ſouth I quickly let them know,
And oft point out the way they are to go;
By this you'll ſee I am a noted rover;
And the known world do travel almoſt over;
In hurricanes and tempeſts often am,
Seldom feel wet, altho' the ocean ſcan;
But do not think that ſtormy rains I fear,
My head is hard, and many a ſtorm will bear;
Seamen and landmen both know well my worth,
Foul wind or fair I boldly face the north.

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

FAIR SALLY's PRAYER.

By WILLIAM STRONG, *of Exeter.*

O Lord of Hoſts! who from thy throne beholds
The frail enjoyments here of our poor ſouls;
Who giv'ſt the word, and lo! hoarſe thunders burſt,
And worlds on worlds in endleſs nights immers'd;
Who with thy arm ſuſtains a thouſand globes,
And clad fair nature in her various robes;
O hear my pray'r, and ſtretch thy mighty arm,
And the fierce hurricane of rage diſarm;
Breathe but the word, and lo! thy myriads preſs
From north to ſouth, from diſtant eaſt to weſt;
With utmoſt ſpeed to trump the new decree,
Lo! all is calm, the tempeſt bows to thee.

Look, Gracious Sovereign! from thy throne of grace,
On my petition with a fav'ring face!
Grant my deſire, O God! my William ſave;
Nor let him ſink into a youthful grave;
Fix gentle zephyrs in the ſwelling ſail,
And waft him, free from harm, from iſle to iſle;
Give him a port whene'er he ſtands in need,
Succeſs and glory in each virtuous deed;
A guardian angel, as a watchful page,
To ſhield him from the battle's direful rage;
Theſe boons I aſk in the Redeemer's name,
To whom be glory, praiſe, and endleſs fame.

Stanzas addreſſed to a Redbreaſt, and written near the Sea-Shore.

SWEET ſolitary bird! perchance thy plaintive lay,
When orient beams have ting'd the cheerful dawn,
Or at the ſilent ſolemn cloſe of day,
Has oft times charm'd dear Frankville's peaceful lawn.

And ſoftly warbling round the well-known hall,
(Where fond remembrance dwells on pleaſures paſt,
But ah, ſweet bird! thoſe joys were not to laſt)
Thy ſong has echo'd from the garden wall.

Perchance thoſe elms which ſhade the graſſy lane
Have been thy ſhelter from the inclement ſtorm,
And ere thy notes were whiſtled to the main,
Firſt gave a twig to perch thy little form.

And O! when wintry ſnows, with blaſts ſevere,
Thy frozen wings have tempted to the door,
Perchance that hand, to me for ever dear,
Has thrown thee crumbs upon the quarried floor.

Then why, lorn bird? forſake thy native plains,
Where ev'ry joy, where ev'ry beauty reigns,
To lonely wander on this wild retreat,
Where billows roar, and ſtorms tremendous beat!

Nay,

Nay, fly not robin! fav'rite of the grove!
Nor think, ſweet bird! I'd harm thy roſy breaſt.
O me! thy penſive dirge I dearly love,
It ſooths my ſoul, and lulls my cares to reſt.

Yet ſtay not here, but wing thy ſpeedy flight,
To that dear ſcene which now my fancy views,
To Frankville's plains return, ere gloomy night
Shall o'er the world her ſable veil diffuſe.

There tune thy ſonnet all the live-long day,
Thro' each ſymphonious ſtrain extatic roll;
Perhaps while chanting from ſome friendly ſpray,
Thy ſong may charm belov'd Elvira's ſoul.

And O! when wintry winds are o'er,
When ſpring ſhall deck the fields once more,
When ſummer comes with garlands bland,
And leads a heav'nly lovely band,
In Frankville's dear delightful dales,
Her verdant lawns, and primroſe vales,
With thee, my fav'rite bird, I'll dwell;
And O! till then, ſweet redbreaſt, fare thee well!

Childwell. FRANKVILLE.

A WINTER EVENING AT HOME.

[From Bowles's Poems.]

FAIR moon, who at the chilly day's decline
Of ſharp December, thro' my cottage pane
Doſt lovely look, ſmiling, tho' in thy wane;
In thought, to ſcenes, tranquil and bright as thine,
Wanders my heart, whilſt I by turns ſurvey
Thee ſlowly wheeling on thy ev'ning way;
And this my fire, whoſe dim, unequal light,
Juſt glimmering, bids each ſhadowy image fall
Sombrous and ſtrange upon the dark'ning wall,
Ere the long evening ſets in deepeſt night!
Yet thy ſtill orb, ſeen thro' the freezing haze,
Shines calm and clear without: and whilſt I gaze,
I think—around me in this twilight room—
I but remark mortality's ſad gloom;
Whilſt hope and joy, cloudleſs and ſoft, appear
In the ſweet beam that lights thy diſtant ſphere.

SONNET.

AS, in quick change, the night ſucceeds to day—
Firſt the bright landſcape dancing ſun-beams chear;
Then darkneſs ſhadows all—ſo hope and fear
Within my boſom hold divided ſway.
Fear thus in warning accents ſpeaks—beware!
Check thy fond dream: for know, ſome youth more bleſt
And worthier far, his tender ſuit had preſs'd,
Ere thou waſt known, and won the yielding fair.
But were ſhe, as the boundleſs ether free,
Scarce ſeen—can hope be thine? Here hope replies,
Recalls the angel ſoftneſs of her eyes,
And ſoothing, ſays, her thoughts are fix'd on me.
Ah, flatterer, hope! to fear! with ſwift intruſion,
Returns to diſſipate thy ſweet illuſion.

PHILO-CLAYBROOK.